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BY DANIEL F. GILMORE

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THE CIA DECLINED COMMENT SUNDAY ON A REPORT THE AGENCY MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN A DELIBERATELY PLANNED OUTBREAK OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER WHICH RESULTED IN THE SLAUGHTER OF 500,000 PIGS IN CUBA IN 1971.

NEWSDAY, A LONG ISLAND, N.Y., NEWSPAPER, SAID SUNDAY THAT "WITH AT LEAST THE TACIT BACKING OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIALS, OPERATIVES LINKED TO ANTI-CASTRO TERRORISTS INTRODUCED AFRICAN SWINE FEVER VIRUS INTO CUBA IN 1971. SIX WEEKS LATER AN OUTBREAK OF THE DISEASE FORCED THE SLAUGHTER OF 500,000 PIGS TO PREVENT A NATIONWIDE ANIMAL EPIDEMIC."

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER, UNLIKE SWINE FLU, DOES NOT INFECT HUMAN BEINGS BUT IS HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS AND LETHAL TO PIGS.

NEWSDAY, QUOTING AN UNIDENTIFIED U.S. INTELLIGENCE SOURCE, SAID THAT EARLY IN 1971 HE WAS GIVEN A CONTAINER OF VIRUS AT FT. GULICK, AN ARMY BASE IN THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE ALSO USED BY THE CIA, AND THE CONTAINER WAS TAKEN BY FISHING BOAT TO AGENTS IN CUBA.

SHORTLY AFTER, AFRICAN SWINE FEVER SHOWED UP IN HAVANA WHERE MANY CUBANS, FACED WITH FOOD SHORTAGES, RAISED PIGS IN THEIR BACKYARDS OR APARTMENT ROOFS. IT WAS THE ONLY TIME THE DISEASE HAS HIT THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

A CIA SPOKESMAN SAID THERE WOULD BE NO COMMENT ON THE NEWSDAY STORY.

BY THEIR OWN ADMISSIONS, THE CIA AND THE U.S. ARMY WERE ENGAGED, AT THE TIME OF THE CUBAN AFRICAN SWINE FEVER OUTBREAK, IN EXPERIMENTS WITH POISONS, LETHAL TOXINS, CROP-DESTROYING AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WARFARE TECHNIQUES.

THE CIA UNTIL 1970 WAS INVOLVED IN AN 18-YEAR, MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR, SUPER-SECRET PROJECT TO DEVELOP POISONS AND SUBSTANCES FOR SABOTAGE AND ASSASSINATIONS, INCLUDING THAT OF CUBAN LEADER FIDEL CASTRO.

WILLIAM E. COLBY, THEN CIA DIRECTOR, TOLD THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE IN 1975 THAT A CACHE OF POISONS AND DEADLY TOXINS WAS STOCKPILED AT FT. DETRICK, MD., UNTIL EARLIER THAT YEAR IN DIRECT CONTRAVENTION OF A 1969 ORDER BY PRESIDENT NIXON TO DESTROY BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL WEAPONS.

LATER TESTIMONY BROUGHT OUT THAT ALL RECORDS OF THE OPERATION, CODE-NAMED M.K. ULTRA, WERE DESTROYED IN MARCH, 1975, ON ORDERS OF AN UNIDENTIFIED CIA OFFICIAL.

THE U.S. ARMY BETWEEN 1953 AND 1969 WAS CARRYING OUT DRUG EXPERIMENTS ON THOUSANDS OF PERSONS WHICH THE SURGEON GENERAL LATER SAID "VIOLATED MEDICAL ETHICS, CODES AND PROCEDURES."

THE ARMY IN THE LATE 1950S AND EARLY 1960S, USING SIMULATED AND SOMETIMES LIVE BACTERIA, ALSO CARRIED OUT TESTS IN THE NEW YORK SUBWAYS AND SIMULATED INFECTION OF THE WATER SUPPLY AND AIR CONDITIONING OF THE PENTAGON AND OTHER FEDERAL BUILDINGS IN WASHINGTON. IT ALSO STAGED CONTAMINATION TESTS IN SAN FRANCISCO, KEY WEST AND OTHER AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE CIA, ACCORDING TO TESTIMONY BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES, EXPERIMENTED WITH A HOST OF BIZARRE AND EXOTIC MEANS OF KILLING OR MAIMING PEOPLE AND DAMAGING CROPS. THE AGENCY IS ALSO KNOWN TO HAVE CARRIED OUT OPERATIONS FOR THE CONTAMINATION OF CUBA'S SUGAR CROP, THE NATION'S MAIN ECONOMIC ASSET.

IT WAS REGARDED LIKELY THAT THE NEW SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE WILL LOOK INTO WHAT, IF ANY, PART THE CIA PLAYED IN THE AFRICAN SWINE FEVER OUTBREAK IN CUBA.

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